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Edward J. Konracki  
MILES & STOCKBRIDGE, P.C.  
Suite 500, 1751 Pinnacle Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833

Dear Mr. Kondracki:

This is in response to your letter received 31 January 2003 inquiring about the status of U.S. patent application 10/031,992 filed 25 January 2002. The application is being processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and an Office action will soon be issued. All further inquiries about the status of this application may be addressed to Catherine Short, Manager of the DO/EO/US, at telephone number (703) 305-3620 or to Donna Greene at telephone number (703) 305-3619.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nguyễn Ngọc Hồ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Nguyễn Ngọc-Hồ  
Paralegal Specialist  
PCT Legal Office

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